Christ Church
Alexandria, Virginia

Parish Report
Program Year 2020-21

Presented February 28, 2021
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Annual Meeting Agenda

11:00 Call to Order.................................Noelle York-Simmons
Declaration of a Quorum...............................Russ Randle
Appointment of a Clerk of the Meeting........... Anne Ramsey
11:05 Rector’s Address..............................Noelle York-Simmons
11:10 Warden’s Address.............................Abas Adenan
11:15 Treasurer’s Report............................Jilinda Crowley
11:20 Stewardship Report.............................Chris Zavrel
11:25 Christ Church Foundation Report............Brian Wommack
11:30 Property Report...............................Anne Shine
11:35 Introduction of the Vestry slate...............Jessica Hughes
11:40 Presentation of Rector & Wardens’ Award.....Noelle, Abas, and Carol Donlan
11:45 Update on Bromley Organ........................Jason Abel
11:50 Question and Answer
11:55 Motion for Adjournment........................Noelle York-Simmons
Closing Prayer....................................Noelle York-Simmons
Does anyone remember that 2020 was a Leap Year? I remember because I buried my mother on February 29. Her passing, while not completely unexpected and not related to COVID, came suddenly and at the end of that long cold last day in February. I wanted to throw in the towel. At that time, I had no idea that millions of other people would also have their worlds turned upside down. Through the loss of loved ones, fatigue from virtual learning, countless Zoom/Skype/Teams meetings, missed milestones (graduations, weddings, reunions) and covered faces, the hope for better times seemed buried in the last pages of a calendar. And yet we persisted. The people of Christ Church preserved. This is the theme for which Christ Church is to be remembered for 2020. As you review this Annual Report, you will be heartened, as I am, to know exactly how we preserved through the challenges, losses, and disappointments of this past year. And the story of how we endured is truly the story of God’s love for us and for one another.

In a year when we were not able to be together on Sundays, the Stewardship Committee led an outreach campaign to reach all parishioners with a phone call. Starting just after Easter, this outreach persisted through July and August, through the fall, and again just a few weeks ago. Members of the Vestry, the Lay Pastoral Care Team, the Daughters of the King, and other parishioners teamed up with the Stewardship Committee to make these calls - to see how you were doing and to let you know that Christ Church is here for you. We made more than 2,240 calls and the data tells us that we had 950 conversations with you. More than anything else, it comforted us to know that you were preserving. Even though we could not be together, our community continued.

Financially, Christ Church finished the year in the black. The financial leadership team applied for and received a loan from the Payroll Protection Program. That loan ensured that we could retain our dedicated staff, giving them the confidence that they would continue to receive a paycheck. We also took advantage of the reduced calendar of activities to tighten the belt around expenses. In a year fraught with financial uncertainty, we managed to outperform expectations. However, it was not so much a series of smart financial decisions that resulted in the outcome but really our parish’s commitment to Jesus’s command to care for one another that allowed income from pledges to remain steady, which enabled us to care for our most critical resource, the human capital which is our staff. And that manifested itself in the outstanding work which supported our children and youth ministries, outreach and support for the people of the City of Alexandria, mission work to support our partners in Uganda and Honduras at a time when it was most needed. You will read more about the impact of our financial stability in this report, but I want to emphasize that in our caring for our staff, we were able to care for so many others beyond the fence of our church yard. Over the summer, as racial justice gripped the attention of the nation and religious leaders helped set the tone of conscience and response, many of you urged the Vestry to lift its voice. Led by Bob Cady, the Vestry released a statement (bit.ly/VestrySep9) that acknowledged the difficult history of slavery by our church community, the support of the Confederacy by members of this church, and Jim Crow racism. In this statement, we resolved to “faithfully and consistently oppose racism and diligently strive to reverse the systemic inequality it engenders in our community today.” We heard from many of you and of your overwhelming support for us. We committed to “understand, amend and reconcile” our past. We joined many of you in seeking to “listen... learn... and live into our faith” through the Sacred Ground course. In June, as the Vestry began our discussions on how to respond to the calls to “say something,” I recall that we were all weary from four months of COVID restrictions, troubled by the ongoing unrest in our nation and unsure of how to address this. But we persisted through the rest of the summer, guided by our clergy, assisted by historians, but mindful of our Baptismal Covenant to “strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being.” Personally, I am most proud of this statement, for not only was it a truly collaborative effort, but each member of the Vestry committed to its completion.

As I look back, 2020 gets smaller and smaller in the rear view mirror. The Vestry knows that challenges lie ahead. But we shall persist, for there is good work to do. Indeed, it is God’s work to be done. Yours in Peace.

“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9
Church Painting Project: Tech Painting
Company accomplished painting project.
Everything was covered with plastic sheets and
they did preparation work before painting.
All windows and shutters have been painted
during this project.

Church Attic Ladder: Russell Gage Company
replaced the old attic ladder, the old one was
very heavy and hard to use.

Historic Chandelier below the balcony: The
Historic chandelier at the church fixed by
Chatrees Antique Furniture.

Church Chandelier cleaning: Jayne Osgood
and Barry Stauffer voluntarily cleaned the
big chandelier at the church after we rolled it
down.

Church yard Sidewalks: Master Home Works Inc. repaired the brick flooring sidewalks at Columbus Street side. There were multiple spots became uneven at this area.

Church New Camera: SLYE Digital Media System installed new video camera, Wi-Fi system and new wiring for A/V system from Parish House to the Church, during this project we repaired the wires tunnel which connecting Church and Parish House.

Church Lighting Project: Contract Electric, Inc. installed new ceiling lights at the church and added four lights above the choir.

Portico & Balcony new rails: Gage Company installed new rails in the balcony behind the organ and in the portico. Alvin our FAs painted the new rails.

Church Cellar doors: Master Home Work replaced four small doors and one large cellar door. All old doors were broken.

Parish House Downspouts and Gutter repairs: Wagner Company replaced two copper downspouts at the Church and Parish House and also replaced part of gutters in Parish House and Fowler House building.

Bathroom's Vanity in Parish House: Master Homework replaced the unused vanity in Fowler House with the Parish House first floor women bathroom's vanity.

Church back door: A gap in church back door caused condensation at door and walls around that and it makes damages on both. Master Home Works fill the gaps and afterwards repaired door and walls.

Landscape: Bartlett Tree Experts performed Church yard pruning and tree treatment.
In 2020, the Christ Church Foundation entered into its fifth decade of service, with thanks for the sustained generosity and support of our parish family and friends for our work to preserve the church, buildings and grounds for ministry today and for generations to come. The Foundation’s investment strategy balances distributions with earnings over a three-year rolling average, ensuring that the assets will provide funds for the future. The majority of the Foundation funds are managed in consultation with Sullivan, Bruyette, Speros & Blayney (SBSB) investment advisors, in accordance with the investment policy established and annually evaluated by the trustees. The trustees also oversee the independently-managed William Smith Trust. In addition, SBSB manages the Tri-Centennial Trust, a fund maturing in 2076; and the grant from the Daniel E. Offutt, III Charitable Trust for the Ross building property.

In 2020, the Foundation made two distributions to the church:
A $200,000 grant - representing 4% of the rolling average of the fund assets over the last three years – distributed quarterly for the continuing care of the church, buildings and grounds, as determined by the Properties Committee.
A $200,000 loan towards the installation of the Bromley Organ, which was repaid by year end.

In recognition of the church’s upcoming 250th anniversary, the Rector has asked the Foundation to work to secure 100 realized planned gifts and gift commitments by the end of 2023. To date, the Foundation has been notified of 87 such gifts and commitments. The trustees are grateful for parishioners and friends who have made known their intent to include a lasting gift to the church through their estate. We also thank all who made current and memorial gifts to the Foundation during 2020. For further information on how you can help, please contact, in confidence, foundation@historicchristchurch.org.

Since its founding, the Christ Church Foundation has embodied the continuing legacy of the faith and support of our parish family. We enjoy this church because of the generosity of those who came before us. Our privilege will be to give to those who will follow. Let us join together, now and in the years to come, to continue building the Foundation as an invisible bulwark behind the visible brick and glass, ensuring that Christ Church’s life and ministry will endure.

Value of Christ Church, Alexandria, Virginia
Foundation Assets
As of December 31, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation funds, managed by SBSB on behalf of Trustees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loan to Diocesan Missionary Society</td>
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<td>William Smith Trust, managed by SunTrust under terms of bequest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tri-Centennial Trust, managed by SBSB on behalf of Trustees</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel E. Offutt, III Charitable Trust, managed by SBSB on behalf of Church</td>
<td>$862,000</td>
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</table>
This year our adult formation began with a Lenten series on characters in the story of Jesus last days and death. Then, with the onset of the pandemic, many of us joined “ReConnect” groups for a time of fellowship and prayer to help one another stay grounded during a time of unknown. During Easter Noelle held a midday poetry series via Zoom. Our most significant development is that we began the Sacred Ground curriculum at Christ Church and had over fifty parishioners complete the ten-week curriculum that examines the history of race in America and the implication for Christians. We held a closing liturgy and are planning steps to continue this work of formation. Our second round of Sacred Ground groups has also launched. The Daughters of the King have offered several adult formation opportunities including a series on Art & Prayer and Music, Poetry, & Prayer. This Lent we have many offerings including book groups on Henri Nouwen’s The Return of the Prodigal Son and a Middays with Mark Bible Study. Through this unexpected year we have been challenging our minds and our hearts (not only to learn Zoom!) to discern where God is calling us in this time of wilderness that is ripe with possibility to deepen our faith.
Pastoral Care
The Rev. Richard J. Jones
pastoralcare@ccalex.org

“When you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you...
for I was sick and you took care of me.” Matthew 25: 34, 36

When parishioners are homebound, hospitalized or in rehabilitation, living alone, or suffering trauma or loss – the Lay Pastoral Care committee seeks to mitigate isolation with one-on-one solidarity. Fourteen men and women, trained in the active listening practices of Kenneth C. Haugk’s Stephen Ministries, maintain contact with parishioners as assigned by the Parish Visitor, the Rev. Richard J. Jones. Visits currently happen more by telephone than in person. Lay visitors meet periodically for accountability and mutual encouragement. This year we have enjoyed several presentations on different ways of providing pastoral care including one by Dorothy Linthicum on aging and memory. It is helpful when parishioners leave a message about a need for care by emailing pastoralcare@ccalex.org. Christ calls us his friends. Friends love one another as Christ has loved us.
Like churches throughout the country, 2020 presented a strong challenge to the music program at Christ Church, but I’m proud that we have continued and, in many ways, become a stronger musical community as a result. At the beginning of the year, our old Austin organ was removed and we were eagerly looking forward to preparing for our new instrument at the end of the year. The hopes I had for taking advantage of the temporarily large and open space in the gallery was short-lived. Nevertheless, we had a wonderful service celebrating Candlemas on February 2 and our Choral Evensong on March 1 allowed us to feature a large string orchestra to augment our musical accompaniment. With the cessation of in-person worship, the choirs began meeting via Zoom on a bi-weekly basis. Our youngest choristers worked on musical comprehension skills and also did some musical listening exercises. Our adult choir gathered online socially to learn a little more about one another and to worship using the service of Compline together. With the closure of the church, work on the gallery began earlier than expected. The gallery floor was reinforced with steel support and new flooring. I think one could successfully drive a car across the floor of it at this point and there’d be no worries for the people down below. The plaster on the walls and the moulding were redone to blend in seamlessly with the remainder of the space. A new iron railing was installed for safety precautions as well as new electrical outlets and lighting. We are deeply grateful for the scores of people who donated generously to our campaign to help pay for all of this work. The abundance of donors was a reminder that we remain a close-knit and supportive parish excited about our musical future. I also extend thanks to the Properties Committee for working to upgrade the lighting abilities in the church – this will be huge benefit to our singers. Our organ is fully built in the U.K. As soon as travel restrictions for persons coming from England are relaxed or lifted, we hope to immediately continue the process of having the instrument shipped here. For a brief time in the Fall, a group of youth and adults formed a handbell choir – enabling us to make live music in the churchyard using our wonderful Whitechapel bells. When the weather warms up, we will resume handbell choir rehearsals and offerings. Finally, I extend deep thanks to the members of the choir who have become very good at videoing themselves singing music to be mixed and shared with others for our online music offerings each Sunday. This was a new experience for so many, and even though they are only on-line, I am reminded of how fortunate I am to work with such talented and devoted members of our parish choir. They are an incredible blessing to me, and I hope, to you too.
Mission
Melanie Gray, MSW, Director of Outreach & Mission
mgray@ccalex.org

Our three missions in the Diocese of Renk, South Sudan, Mengo Hospital and Clinics in Kampala, Uganda and Our Little Roses Home and School for Girls in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, like the rest of the world, met with varying challenges in 2020. We are thankful for their resilience and strength. The COVID-19 pandemic consumed much of the focus of the year; however, it forced us to be more creative than ever in how we communicate with and love one another. I believe in many ways we surpassed our own expectation with what we thought was possible in terms of our not only maintaining but also deepening our connections. We are looking at 2021 as a year for continued resilience and partnership as we face our successes and our challenges together. This is possible because of the leadership of these missions and their commitment to growing and strengthening their committees within the church as we pursue the important work that is before us.

Diocese of Renk (South Sudan)
For 23 years, Christ Church and the Episcopal Diocese of Renk in South Sudan have shared a covenant to pray for each other, visit when possible, and support vital social services provided by the diocesan bishop, The Rt. Rev. Joseph Garang Atem. We built and supply a four-room medical clinic - the only working medical facility in an area the size of Maryland. We helped fund an ambulance, construction of St. Matthew’s Cathedral, an internet upgrade, and translation of the Old Testament to Dinka. We advocate for peace and programs to improve the well-being of our brothers and sisters in Christ.
In 2020, no visits were possible, as the pandemic impacted global travel. The Diocese of Renk remained free of COVID largely due to their isolation and their experience in dealing with communicable diseases. In December, we sent $16,471.42 for emergency funds for COVID-19 protection. Thank you Nancy Knapp for your continued leadership of the Diocese of Renk, South Sudan Mission.

Mengo Hospital, Uganda
Christ Church has been a prayerful partner with Mengo Hospital in Kampala, Uganda for over four decades. Over the years, Christ Church collaborated with other Friends of Mengo organizations in the UK and Canada to build a hospital chapel, dental clinic, HIV/AIDS clinic and expanded medical facilities. On March 22, 2020 Mengo Hospital registered its first COVID positive case in the country and there was a mandatory lockdown which shutdown all public transportation. This lockdown meant that many patients could not get to the clinic to receive their medication and medical care. Women died in childbirth because they could not get to the hospital. The hospital’s income dropped dramatically
due to the shutdown with paying patients being unable to receive care. In 2020, Christ Church sent $31,000 to help with much needed medical supplies, PPE and to assist with the expansion of the COVID-19 isolation unit. We maintained close communications with the staff at Mengo throughout the year. We continue to work in consultation with Mengo Hospital leaders, including Dr. Rose Mutumba and Dr. Edith Namulema, and Dr. Ken Chapman, the missionary dentist. We are planning a remote mission experience this summer. We thank Bill Chin and Raymond Gilpin for serving as co-chairs of the Mengo Committee and we welcome Witney Schneidman as co-chair with Raymond in 2021.

Our Little Roses, Honduras

Christ Church has been a part of the lives of girls at Our Little Roses for more than two decades. OLR provides education, medical care and support for girls from birth through university graduation. Over the years, Christ Church has built strong and loving relationships with the young women at OLR who eventually become teachers, business leaders, medical providers and other professionals. In 2020, we continued to sponsor two girls at OLR, Critzenn and Monserrat. We communicate regularly with the staff of OLR. The most important part of our mission is one of presence - visiting for a week each year, normally in person, but by Zoom in 2020 and 2021. Currently there are 64 girls living at OLR. In 2020, we held the first ever-remote mission trip which included a book group and are planning another soon. Approximately 40 parishioners helped in planning the week’s activities and/or attended Zoom sessions. We sent funds to help purchase an 85-inch television so that all the girls could connect with us on the virtual mission experience. In July, we sent $1,000 to provide the staff with a bonus to help with the toll COVID-19 was taking on them and their families. In November, a category 5 hurricane touched down in Honduras and while the home sustained little damage, the rest of the country was hit hard and this included the homes of many of the staff. We sent $3,300 in disaster relief in response. For Christmas, we sponsored a dinner and a Zumba-thon party at the request of the girls. We are in constant communication with the staff of OLR and we are actively planning our 2021 virtual mission trip. We thank Jane Baird and Anne Reed for serving as co-chairs in 2020.
Outreach
Melanie Gray, MSW, Director of Outreach & Mission
mgray@ccalex.org

Christ Church is a safe and welcoming place for all of our Christian brothers and sisters in need in our community, regardless of race, color, national or ethnic origin, age, religion, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or veteran status. Parishioners give generously of their time, skills and gifts, prayers and financial donations to outreach efforts in Alexandria. 2020 was a year like no other. Of our 12 outreach ministries, four were not able to continue safely due to the pandemic. The remaining eight had to be completely redesigned in order to continue to serve the community during this time of crises. In addition, in the midst of the crises a new ministry was born. At times, this seemed impossible and daunting, but we did it. We were successful because of the relationships we had established within our community and with our community partners over the years. This foundation enabled us to support these dramatic shifts. Each ministry took collaboration, commitment, trust, and most of all, faith. It has shown us that with God things are possible. We continue to form alliances and partnerships in the faith community across Alexandria to create a stronger safety net that is truly a fabric of Christ’s love. Our resilience and ability to be nimble in the face of human crises has kept many people housed, fed and safe. I extend the warmest love and gratitude to you all.

ALIVE! Partnership
For many years on two Saturdays per year, parishioners from Christ Church were responsible for pickup and delivery of donated furniture. For many people in our community the donated furniture they receive is all the furniture they have. In 2020, the Furniture Ministry had to shut down in mid-February. The hope is that it will resume in 2021. Thank you, Rawles Jones and Matt Zahn for being the Christ Church liaisons for this ministry and to ALIVE!

Bag Lunch
Rotating with other churches in Alexandria, Christ Church parishioners prepare and serve lunches at Meade Memorial Church for 45-55 hungry people each day, generally nine weeks per year. In addition to sandwiches, cookies, and fruit prepared daily, soup is prepared during winter months and we had expanded our offerings to include hot lunch items, such as hamburgers. Group meal preparation was no longer possible starting in February 2020, nor was the hospitality of serving the lunch. Since March 2020, individuals or families sign up to shop for the groceries, prepare the lunches in their homes and then deliver and distribute the meals at Meade Memorial Church. Thank you, Andrea McNicholas, for leading this ministry.

Bread for the World
Working with members of Bread for the World, members of Christ Church bring skills, advocacy and faith to end hunger and improve opportunities for poor people. In a May Sunday Forum, David Beckmann explained the need for an increase in SNAP food assistance, and some Christ Church members called their congressional offices on this issue. Congress was out of session for most of the rest of the year. We will be discerning our role with food scarcity and advocacy in 2021. Thanks to Doreen Kibuka-Musoke for leading this ministry.

Carpenter’s Shelter Meals and Desk Coverage
Carpenter’s Shelter is one of two shelters in the City of Alexandria that provides services to individuals and families. When Covid 19 hit, the shelter restricted access to staff and residents only, and the Christ Church team had to rethink how to continue to serve the Carpenter’s Shelter community. We found partners in two local restaurants, Lori’s Table on Old Town and Zoup of Ballston, who provided discounted delicious dinners. Volunteers helped donate funds for the
catered dinners and transported the meals to the shelter for the staff to serve. Later this summer, when the shelter allowed volunteers to return to the kitchen, with Covid protocols in place, Christ Church volunteers readily returned - delivering groceries, cooking, and serving dinners on-site. The residents were happy to see us back behind the counter, and we were thrilled to be there. Thank you, Barbara Boehm and Sam Brathwaite, for leading these ministries.

**Christ Child Ministry**
In what is a very difficult time for many in our community, we were able to spread Christmas joy to 106 families in Alexandria. More than 200 children woke up with Christmas gifts and Christmas dinner. Families who were part of our Christ Child Ministry this year received a Giant gift card as well as, for each child, a $100 Target or Walmart gift card, a Christmas card from Christ Church, a cuddly fleece blanket, and a stocking filled with small gifts and much love. All gifts were delivered by volunteers or distributed at the Boys and Girls Club. Thank you Caroline Carbaugh and Anne Ramsey for leading this ministry.

**City Employee Lazarus Ministry**
The Lazarus City Employee Emergency Assistance program officially opened on June 8, 2020 and wrapped up the third round of assistance on November 20, 2020. A new voicemail and application process for City Employees was established and counselors picked up calls Monday through Friday. By the end of 2020, the Lazarus City Employee Emergency Assistance assisted 255 City of Alexandria employees with $130,000 in financial assistance – much of it as grocery gift cards or assistance with rent, utilities and other bills. Thank you Anne Richardson and Liz Denson for overseeing this ministry.

**Gleaning Fresh Food**
From June through November each year, Christ Church volunteers rescue fresh food each Saturday from the Old Town Farmer’s Market. Groups of dedicated volunteers gather to collect, bag, and haul donated and unwanted produce, eggs, and fresh baked goods from participating vendors. In 2020, we began on June 20 and wrapped up September 19, for a total of 12 Saturdays. By the end of the season, just over 3,000 pound of food was gleaned, wonderful news in these tough times. With the Lazarus Food Pantry closed, volunteers took the donations to Trinity United Methodist Church to be used in the amazing Christ Church Lazarus grocery delivery ministry. Thank you, Anne Richardson, for leading this ministry.

**Ladrey Senior Bingo**
Ladrey Bingo has long been a mainstay at Alexandria’s Senior High-rise apartments on Wythe Street for 15 years. On the third Thursday of every month, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., residents look forward to a night of fellowship and fun as they play Bingo and socialize with their neighbors. Snacks are served, prizes are won and laughter abounds. The evening’s events are free for everyone and have become one of Ladrey’s most popular recurring events for all residents. In February, all events were cancelled and that is still the case today. In December, we typically host a special Holiday Bingo. In 2020 that was not possible, however The Bediz Group, (Realtors with the Keller Williams Capital Properties) provided gift bags of favorite toiletries the 187 residents that included hats, scarves, gloves, lotion, and more. Christ Church purchased grocery gift cards and fleece blankets for each resident. Recognizing that 2021 will likely continue to keep us apart from one another we hope to come up with creative ways to interact with the residents of Ladrey this year. Thank you Trish Fineran & Nick Wasilewski for leading this ministry.

**Lazarus Emergency Financial Ministries**
On Wednesdays and Thursdays, trained financial counselors work with Alexandria residents who are seeking emergency financial support with rent, utilities, and medical bills. We provide funds, resources, advocacy and encouragement. Weekly we typically assist 30 individuals and families. The
in-person ministry became an emergency help line in mid-February 2020 and this continues today. Clients leave voicemail messages in English and Spanish. Eight counselors sign up for shifts to field the calls on their personal cell phones Monday – Friday 9am to 6 pm. In 2020 Christ Church Lazarus Ministry counselors have helped 1,389 individuals with $374,476.41 in support, 99% was spent on rent to prevent evictions. This is a 39% increase in spending as compared to 2019. Thank you, Denise Jean-Claude and Julie Duke for leading this ministry.

Lazarus Food Pantry and Grocery Delivery
On Thursdays, 30–45 Alexandria residents come to select food from our Lazarus Food Pantry. Nonperishable staples are available as well as fresh produce, bread, cheese, eggs, and other short-life items donated by local merchants and parishioners. We continue our partnership with the Capital Area Food Bank, Trader Joes, MOM’s Organic Market, and Panera. We began making contact-free deliveries of groceries and gift cards on May 1, 2020. Since that time, volunteers have made over 570 deliveries, serving nearly 1,200 individuals. In eight months, we have spent nearly $23,000 on grocery gift cards, food, and household essentials like dish soap and toilet paper. Thank you, Barbara Fallon and Denise Jean Claude for leading this ministry.

Meals on Wheels
A community based program designed to meet the nutritional and social needs of seniors Homebound Alexandrians receive a hot and cold meal and a check in each day through Meals on Wheels. Christ Church had teams that picked up and delivered on the third Wednesday of each month. By February 2020, our volunteers were no longer able to safely participate in this ministry. However, meals continued to be delivered throughout 2020 by other groups in the community. Thank you, Jane Baird, for leading this ministry.

Refugee Ministry
Since our Refugee work began in 2016, Christ Church and other local churches provide assistance, support, and friendship to refugee families who are here seeking safety and freedom. The pandemic has had a tremendous impact on our refugee families, many of whom were underemployed before the pandemic struck. The refugee ministry has continued to help guide families throughout the pandemic. Computers were provided to multiple families this year so they are able to continue with English classes virtually, and to pursue educational training. One of our primary roles in 2020 was helping families apply for rent relief funds and other public benefits that were made available during the pandemic. We were able to assist 17 families with $75,324.27. Thank you Amy Bacon and Barbara Fallon for leading this ministry.

Thanksgiving Meals
Each year the Tuesday before Thanksgiving the ingredients for approximately 175 meals are distributed, allowing families to enjoy a healthy holiday meal in their own homes. Families receive a turkey, fresh green beans and potatoes fresh rolls, canned goods, sweet potato, apple and pumpkin pies and all the other fixings, which are donated by parishioners and local preschools. In 2020 volunteers delivered grocery gift cards or groceries to 165 households. Thank you Amy Bacon, Barbara Fallon, Andrea McNicholas and Amy Wilczynski for leading this ministry.

Winter Hypothermia Shelter
For many years St. Clements’s Episcopal Church opened its sanctuary January through March to shelter homeless men overnight. On a rotation of Sunday nights in those months, two Christ Church volunteers spend the night and manage the shelter to extend a greeting to men who need a warm and safe place to sleep. In 2020, the Hypothermia Shelter was operated by the City out of a community recreation center and that continue through 2021. Thank you Dave Buffaloe and Steve Reed for leading this ministry in past years.
We enter 2021 in a solid financial position, a wonderful outcome made possible by the continued generosity of this parish. Last year, our revenue and expenses were both $1.93 million. Nearly a quarter of our income was generated by the lease of our space to Ross, which expires next year. As we plan for our future, continued generosity and belt tightening are likely to be needed to fill this gap.

For 2021, we have budgeted for expenses to increase to $2.1 million. We are hopeful that the parish’s continued generosity, coupled with forgiveness of our loan from the government’s Paycheck Protection Program, will allow the parish to meet these rising costs.

Cash: At the end of 2020, the church had a cash balance of $360,939, down modestly from 2019’s cash balance of $401,252.

Investments: At the end of 2020, the church held the following investment balances:

- Reserves at $141,490 (a significant reduction from 2019’s balance of $325,549);
- The Clergy Housing Fund at $266,891 (up from 2019 at $235,983);
- The Offutt Charitable Trust for Mission & Outreach now has a balance of $405,668 (a modest decline from 2019’s balance of $410,835).

Revenue: Total 2020 revenue was $1.93 million, including $1.5 million in offerings and $440k of rental income from Ross. Revenue from weddings, space rental and loose plate offerings were understandably down sharply, as the pandemic prevented most in-person gatherings.

Expenses: Our 2020 expenses were $1.93 million, $128k less than budgeted, driven by lower salary expenses from our two departing clergy and lower utilities and administrative costs as a result of the pandemic closures.

Net Result: Revenue exceeded costs by $2,386.
## 2020 Financial Report

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>YTD Actual</th>
<th>YTD Annual</th>
<th>Variance</th>
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<td><strong>REVENUES</strong></td>
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<td>Offerings</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>ROSS Income</td>
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<td>Sal/Tax/Ben</td>
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<td>Misc Staff</td>
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<td>Misc Other</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue less Expense</strong></td>
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Children’s Ministries
Ariel Rudy, Director of Children’s Ministries
arudy@ccalex.org

Children are resilient, generally speaking. A toddler who is learning to walk might wail and shed some tears if they fall, but they will be stomping across the playground in no time after a quick dust off. Likewise, a fourth grader who loses a friendship might need time to process the loss and talk it through, but sooner or later they will chat with a new friend at lunch or make an acquaintance on the schoolbus. The knowledge that children are resilient, flexible, and ultimately very brave is something I have held onto during this time of isolation and social distancing. I will admit that there have been sleepless nights where I lay awake, praying that the children of our parish will still feel the love of God and of their church family while we are apart, that they will still remember the Lord’s Prayer and the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000. Those prayers have been answered so many times and in so many ways this past year as children’s ministries and our parish as a whole have shifted. The commitment to Christ that I see in our children and their families cannot be understated.

When life first ground to a halt in March of 2020 ("Just for two weeks!") Sunday School teachers swung into action, filming storytimes, and sharing bedtime prayers. We expanded the Children’s Ministries Facebook page to include almost daily posts. As time wore on and we realized that such an output was unsustainable, worry crept in. We hadn’t had Sunday School or Children’s Chapel in a few weeks now, and it was looking more and more like we were in this for the long haul. Between school demands, the learning curve with technology, and the fact that so much of our curriculum is hands on, a fully online Sunday School wouldn’t be feasible. Then, a parent suggested that Children’s Chapel on Zoom might be worth a shot. Skeptical, I agreed to give it a go but secretly feared that our typical holy chaos would be less holy and more chaos. When I closed my laptop after our first Zoom Children’s Chapel, I almost burst into tears. I hadn’t seen these wonderful children in weeks now, and yet they still knew our exact order of worship. They still listened attentively to our children’s sermon and asked questions...
about what comes next and how the people in the story felt. It was like a lightbulb went off: of course we could do this online! Modern children have been using electronic devices since their little eyes could focus, and I was so impressed with their ability to pay attention to what their friends and I were saying as they muted and unmuted themselves with ease, still remembering to raise hands and take turns speaking.

Since then, we’ve had Children’s Chapel on Zoom over 40 times, including Palm Sunday and Easter—with each “regular” Sunday seeing at least 15 kids in attendance and feast days seeing double that. 4th and 5th graders have crowded around iPads and smartphones to discuss different depictions of the Last Supper during Holy Week in 2020. They also examined pairs of Renaissance and modern art representing the Annunciation, Visitation, and John the Baptist in the wilderness during Advent. We’ve prayed a modified compline around campfires, played Simon Says in the glow of the flames, and studied the weekly lectionary during Bible study.

The children of our parish have demonstrated something that simply can’t be taught: a willingness to show up and wonder about God, to ask questions, to sit in the “I’m not sure about that” and then keep going. It has been a joy to spend so much time in worship and the online classroom with them this past year. I suspect that we’ve actually spent more time together than we did pre COVID.

In a year that has taken so much away from us, the Spirit has prompted us to ask “How can we live into this?” What can we do now that we couldn’t do before, or were too afraid to try before? Children have been more involved in worship in “the big church” than ever before, as lay readers, intercessors, and Advent wreath lighters. Children contributed drawings and writing to our daily Advent meditations as well. Grandparents, parents, friends, and children have come together digitally from miles and oceans apart to pray and discuss the themes and stories of Advent while waiting for the birth of the Christ Child. A dozen different children participated in Unto Us This Night, our Christmas Eve service for children and families. They acted out the stories, read the scripture, and played music, all for the glory of God.

Over the past year, Children’s Ministries has been able to maintain some kind of contact with over 90% of Christ Church families, either through mail, Zoom, or socially distanced gatherings outdoors. None of this would have been possible without the love and support of the parents and other adults of Christ Church. These are parents who get everyone up, dressed, fed, and in the car for Saturday morning Children’s Chapel in the Churchyard when it would have been far easier to stay in pajamas until noon. These are parents who roust children from the couch in front of the television to get them on Zoom for Bible Study. These are parents who share the faith at home while juggling working from home, schooling from home, fried nerves, and grouchy children. These are Sunday School teachers who handwrite Christmas notes to children, record video lessons, and pray without ceasing for our community. We had two options in March: to collapse, or to rise. And I think we rose.
Our youth program was sad to say bye to Seldon this year but we are looking forward to Robbie’s arrival. We have had several fire & s’more gatherings for fellowship and worship. Youth have been active in our virtual worship with reading and musical offerings. Holly Levanto and Elizabeth Trigg have stepped up as youth leaders and are planning many exciting events for youth. Instead of making pancakes together this year, youth made their own Shrove Tuesday pancake-making videos and watched them together! They are now on a Lent Journey to a better world and community and first went to Jerome “Buddie” ford Nature Center and will be doing a Manumission Tour in Alexandria and more.